



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

PM82/0104

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/909,712	08/11/97	001	SANTOS, R	3628 01/04/00
First Named Applicant	CHASE JR, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION PORTABLE INFLATABLE MASSAGE SUPPORT APPARATUS

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
3	005-706.000	G50	UTILITY	YES	\$605.00	04/04/00

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.
Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview conducted on 12/22/99

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claim 18, now renumbered as claim 1

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☒ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John P. Wagner, Jr. on December 22, 1999.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- 1) Claims ~~1-11~~, ~~13-17~~, and ~~19-25~~ have been canceled.
- 2) Claim 18 has been rewritten as follows:

d1 18. | A massage support structure assembly comprising:
an inflatable body supporting structure having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface and said bottom surface defining an enclosure therebetween when said inflatable body supporting structure is inflated, said inflatable body supporting structure having a head end and a foot end;

an inflatable face cradle disposed proximate to said head end of said inflatable body supporting structure for supporting the head of said person being massaged;

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d1
cont

a faceplate opening disposed near head end of said inflatable body supporting structure, said faceplate opening formed completely through said inflatable body supporting structure such that if said person is disposed face down on said top surface of said inflatable body supporting structure, said person is able to breathe;

an interior body bolster disposed between said head end and said foot end of said inflatable body supporting structure, said interior body bolster for supporting the torso region of said person being massaged, said interior body bolster disposed between said top surface and said bottom surface of said inflatable body supporting structure such that said interior body bolster is disposed within said enclosure of said inflatable body supporting structure:

knee support regions formed into said inflatable body supporting structure, said knee support regions disposed proximate to said foot end of said inflatable body supporting structure for comfortably supporting the knees of said person being massaged;

arm cradling portions formed into said inflatable body supporting structure, said arm cradling portions for comfortably supporting the arms of said person being massaged; and

[an inflatable foot bolster adapted to be disposed proximate to said foot end of said inflatable body supporting structure for supporting the feet of a person being massaged, said inflatable foot bolster having a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface and said bottom surface defining an enclosure therebetween when said inflatable foot bolster is inflated]

wherein said inflatable face cradle comprises:

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d1
cont

a U-shaped structure having a first side, a second side, and a base, said first side, said second side and said base defining said faceplate opening therebetween, said first side of said U-shaped structure comprising a first cheek supporting region, said second side of said U-shaped structure comprising a second cheek supporting region, and said base of said U-shaped structure comprising a forehead supporting region, said opening of said U-shaped structure for comfortably receiving the face of said person when said person is disposed face down on said inflatable massage support structure, said U-shaped structure having a width measured from said first side of said U-shaped structure to said second side of said U-shaped structure of approximately 10 inches, said U-shaped structure having a length measured from said base of said U-shaped structure to the end of said opening of said U-shaped structure of approximately 8.5 inches.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: During the telephone interview conducted on December 22, 1999, it was agreed that independent claim 18 would be allowable over the prior art of record if the specific structural limitations of the inflatable face cradle recited in dependent claim 23 were added thereto. Since Applicant's independent claim 18 has been amended to include these changes and the remainder of the claims have been canceled, the examiner respectfully asserts that the application is presently in proper condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue


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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Santos whose telephone number is (703) 308-7469. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-2168.


TERRY LEE MELIUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

R.S.

December 22, 1999

